



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P. O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010 MINUTES

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

Members Present: R. Clements-Chairman, R. Cleary, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, J. Wehr, M. Varney

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, M. Blanchette-First Selectman, S. Cullinan-Superintendent of Schools, D. Keune-BOE Chairman, P. Hany-Pres. EVAC, Sgt. Konieczny, C. Pippin-Chief CLFD, G. Fetko-PW Director, R. Tedford-Director P&R, Members of Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, Residents.

Chairman Robert Clements opened the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Citizen's Forum

Clayton Bannock, 67 ½ Snipsic Lake Rd stated that at the Public Hearing he welcomed the many comments that were expressed about the quality of education and the safety services of the Town. He moved to this Town after researching the surrounding towns for those services and education system. He is concerned about the past couple of years of cuts to the education system. He is worried about the impact of additional cuts to the quality of the Ellington school system and he feels that this budget is fair and reasonable and should not be reduced.

Chairman Clements read into the record two e-mail letters he received from residents after the Public Hearing on Tuesday. (Attached)

Award Bid for Audit Services

Finance Officer, Nicholas DiCorleto stated that the low bidder, Henry Raymond & Thompson, was a firm unknown to him and that after further investigation found that they had never done a municipal audit. He consulted with OPM and they suggested that they not be awarded the bid. Mr. DiCorleto's recommendation is that the Town award the bid to CCR. He felt that the staff time to break in a new auditor and the fact that CCR never comes back for extras is a plus. He also told the Board that the price they came in at is lower than what is being budgeted.

Mr. Clements stated he was inclined to go with the firm that is presently auditing the books. All bids were within the target amount and CCR is familiar with the Town. This will save the

Finance Dept staff time. Mr. Joyse commented that sometimes it is good to change auditors to get a new perspective on procedures.

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE AUDIT SERVICES TO CCR OF GLASTONBURY, CT FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD WITH THE OPTION FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS. IT WILL COVER THE AUDIT YEARS 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 AND 2014.

Board of Education Computer Lease

The Board of Education computer lease is a four year lease totaling \$263,000. The current lease payment for this 2010-11 budget year will be lower than the current lease that will be paid up. Mr. Cleary asked why the Board has to approve the lease before the budget. Mr. DiCorleto stated that it is in the debt budget and has to go to the May 11 town meeting for approval because the Town Charter states that all leases have to go for town meeting approval. It creates a double approval by the taxpayers. Mr. Varney asked why not make it a 3 year lease which creates a 6 year cycle. There was some discussion regarding the life of computers in the length of the cycle.

Superintendent Cullinan stated that he is appreciative for any plan that the Board of Finance would consider funding. He agreed that the 8 year cycle for computers is long but a lot of the computers that the students use can get by with 8 year cycles due to the nature of the programs in use. Mr. Joyse felt that a 3 year lease with a 6 year cycle for replacement would be better for the Board of Education. Mr. Cleary and Mr. Pinto felt that the 8 year cycle should be maintained purely for the cost factor in this economy.

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED (JOYSE VOTED NAY) TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A FOUR-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$263,000 PENDING TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW AND TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.

Town Hall Remediation and Boiler Conversion

The Town Hall underground oil tank was found to have leaked. This additional appropriation would be for the removal of the tank and the clean up and remediation of surrounding soils. Then a new gas fired boiler would be purchased and the gas brought into the building from the street. There would be no underground tank liability and gas is less costly than oil. DPW Director George Fetko told the Board that the ground water and air have been monitored and were found to be OK. Any additional soil contamination will be determined when the tank is removed.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,000 FROM 2009-10 UNDESIGNATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO THE 2009-10 TOWN HALL 810 ACCOUNT FOR THE TOWN HALL OIL TANK REMOVAL/BOILER CONVERSION PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.

Budget Deliberations

A list of projected increases in revenues and grants as well as reductions in budgets was handed out to the members for discussion. (Attached)

Projected increase in revenues of \$163,896 is being budgeted from a change in the anticipated collection rate from 97.5% to 98% which is the current year collection rate. There is \$64,600 in other income budgeted for a total of \$228,496 in additional revenue projections.

The reductions to budget consist of Board of Education for \$124,000 which equates to .1 mill decrease, Auditors new bid price reduction of \$4,500, Town Planner overtime account reduction of \$1,000, Pinney House reduction of \$8,000, and Debt Redemption decrease of \$41,680 which is the result of the refinancing of the bonds. The DPW John Deer Loader was eliminated and put into a 5 year lease/purchase. The capital improvement item of \$147,960 was eliminated and a lease payment of \$39,134 was added. The Health Insurance account was decreased by \$23,286 for the Senior Center Asst. Director. The \$8,000 salary component was left in this budget in case they opt to hire additional part time help. An additional reduction from the health insurance account was taken in the amount of \$61,000 as requested by Leo Miller at the March 23 hearing. The Ad Hoc Graduation Party was reduced \$3,000 and the CLFD Hydraulic Tools were added for \$21,450.

The additional revenues and reductions taken result in a .3 mill rate increase.

Mr. Joyse asked about the operating budget for the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse in the amount of \$9,500 and the timing of the finishing of the building work. Mr. Fetko told him that the funds in this capital improvement budget will finish the renovation of the building. It will be the most energy efficient building that the town owns. He felt that 6 months of carrying costs would be reasonable. Mr. Joyse suggested reducing Account 860 by \$4,500 to set it at \$5,000 for the year. This was added to the list of reductions.

Mr. Joyse then stated that \$1.7 million of the undesignated fund balance is being used to offset the 2010-11 budget. He felt that only \$800,000 should be used and that the mill rate increase should be .8 mills. Mr. Wehr also made the argument that the Town should save more of the undesignated fund balance to cover following year's budget gap. Mr. Clements did not agree and felt that the taxpayers payments created that undesignated fund balance and by not using most of it, will require them to pay this year at a higher tax rate. Mr. Wehr felt that the reductions and the revenue increases to this budget were phantom cuts and not real cuts.

Mr. Clements also did not agree with that and reiterated that the budget is a year by year process. The Board's charge is to present a budget that the taxpayers will agreed to.

Mr. Joyse asked about the Road Overlay account. Mr. Fetko stated that it costs \$35/ft to overlay the road and \$75/foot to reconstruct a road. It costs more in the long run if the road maintenance gets behind and requires total reconstruction.

Mr. Wehr then suggested that the \$124,000 cut to the Board of Education be eliminated and to present the budget for approval at the .8 mill increase as presented.

Mr. Varney stated his concern about spending down the undesignated fund balance. The Town will be using 85% of the balance to keep the budget from increasing and he doesn't want to end up with a budget gap so large that an automatic 1.0 mill increase will be needed to fill it. Mr. Joyse could not remember seeing the fund balance spent down this low.

Others felt they remembered spending it all. Mr. Clements stated that it seems every year the Town finds ways to save money and the balance is there at the end of the budget year. Last year was a year that had a large gap to fill and due to economies throughout the year, the Town ended with a balance.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED (WEHR VOTED NAY) TO ACCEPT THE INCREASES IN REVENUES AND CHANGES IN EXPENSES AS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED LIST.

The Chairman then opened up the floor for questions.

Mr. Cleary asked for an explanation of the Everbridge System and why the school system, which already has a notification system and the Town, could not be combined into one system. Mr. Davis, Emergency Management Director stated that the system they are purchasing is being purchased in conjunction with the State of CT for a 60-70% price reduction verses purchasing it separately. It will be \$5,000 initially and \$3,200 per year after. This purchase is for emergency situations. Superintendent Cullinan stated that the school cannot combine with the emergency system but did not know if the Town could be added to their system. He stated that the cost of their system is a per pupil cost. It sounds like it would not be cost effective for an entire population. Don Davis stated that the Town has to have some kind of warning system and that this system can notify portions of the community for isolated emergencies.

Mr. Cleary asked about the increase in the library budget. He proposed cutting \$10,000 from this budget. Mr. Clements stated that the age of the building necessitates the increase in the repairs and maintenance budget; he also stated that Mrs. Phillips always comes in with a zero budget. This year she is increasing the materials budget. Ellington is 30% lower than average for materials per resident. He felt that in this economy the library is a very useful resource to people and did not favor reducing it this year.

Mr. Cleary then asked about the Patriotic Committee's budget of \$3,000. He was told that this is a new committee set up by the Board of Selectmen to run the Memorial Day events and other patriotic events in Town. The veterans are becoming older and they would like to see younger citizens be involved. The budget will enable them purchase the monuments, flags, and to fund events.

The 1080 Account for the Town Website has a budget of \$5,500 for upgrades. Mr. DiCorleto told Mr. Cleary that \$2,500 cut from this budget would leave a fair amount to work with. No motion was made to reduce this account.

Mr. Varney asked Mr. Davis about the telephones and the air cards. He explained that he has three phones and four air cards for the 4 laptops.

There was discussion about the capital reserve fund. Mr. DiCorleto stated that it will be 6.5% at the 2009-10 budget.

Chairman recessed the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Chairman reconvened the meeting at 9:55 PM

DPW-John Deere Front End Loader with Accessories

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE FRONT END LOADER WITH ACCESSORIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$178,000 PENDING TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW AND TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010 AT ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR CONSIDERATION.

Approval of Fiscal Year Budget 2010-11

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 IS \$45,663,569. ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS) ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 11,747,549
REDEMPTION OF DEBT	3,086,431
CONTINGENCY FUND	150,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	29,429,989
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	<u>1,249,600</u>
	\$ 45,663,569

1100 CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,249,600 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND, SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT	25,000
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	106,105
ROAD OVERLAY	569,445

TOWNWIDE SIDEWALKS	30,000
STAFFORD ROAD SEWER EXTENSION	50,000
DPW-SKID STEER LOADER W/ACCESSORIES	46,300
OLD CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOLHOUSE REHAB	95,000
REVALUATION	150,000
EVAC-PROTECTIVE RESPONSE GEAR	26,000
EVAC-CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEM	26,300
CLFD-HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS	21,450
EVFD-HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS	80,000
BOE-REPLACEMENT VANS-SPECIAL ED	24,000
	<u>\$1,249,600</u>

LESS FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS

STATE GRANT LOCIP	99,977
TOWN SIDEWALK FUND	30,000
DPW MAINT. FUND	46,300
AMBULANCE FEE PROGRAM	52,300
	<u>228,577</u>

NET COST TO TOWN **\$1,021,023**

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT BOARD OF EDUCATION GRANTS AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THEIR MARCH 24, 2010 MEETING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,402,600 (SEE ATTACHED SHEET).

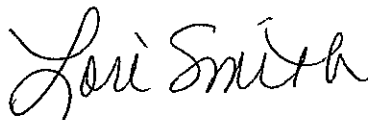
There was discussion regarding the opinions of the members as to the amount of undesignated fund balance to be used for the 2010-11 budget and how it is determined. Mr. Clements stated that the motions have been made and approved and that the mill rate increase of .3 mills will go to the May 11 Town Meeting and to the voters.

Mr. Clements told those in attendance that the April 27 deliberation meeting would be canceled as all business was completed tonight.

Adjournment

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Clerk



Ellington Public Schools

"Where Children Come First"

Stephen C. Cullinan
Superintendent of Schools

Nancy E. Daley
Administrative Assistant

March 26, 2010

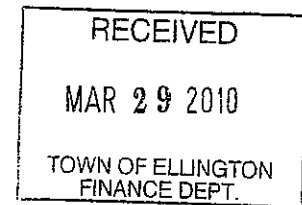
Bruce E. Brettschneider
Director of Special Services

Erin K. McGurk, Ed.D.
Director of Educational Services

Anthony P. Lintuzzio
Director of Business Services

Mr. Maurice Blanchette
First Selectman
Town of Ellington
55 Main Street
Ellington, CT 06029

Dear Mr. Blanchette:



The Board of Education, at its regular meeting on March 24, 2010, unanimously approved the following motion:

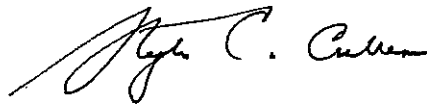
"To recommend to the Annual Town Budget Meeting acceptance of prepaid grants and funds fully reimbursable for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, and to appropriate the same to the Board of Education in a sum estimated at \$1,402,600 of which the individual grants are estimated to be as follows:

	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Title I - Part A: Improving Basic Programs		\$ 100,000
	Funds are targeted to improve achievement in reading and mathematics with grant entitlements based on family income indicators.	
Title II: Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting		\$ 50,000
	Supports increased student achievement by improving teacher and administrator quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers.	
Title II: Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology "ARRA Funds"		\$ 1,000
	Supports effective use of technology to improve student learning.	

Title IV: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act	\$ 2,000
Funds are targeted to support programs that prevent violence and foster a safe and drug-free learning environment.	
IDEA - Part B: Section 611 Special Education Entitlement	\$ 387,100
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Designed to provide funds for the education of disabled children.	
IDEA - Part B: Section 611- "ARRA Funds"	\$ 439,000
Additional funds received for this two-year grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds are recommended to expand learning time; increase capacity; provide professional development or technical assistance; or provide direct special education or related services to students and parents.	
IDEA - Part B: Section 619 A Preschool Entitlement	\$ 11,900
Designed to provide funds for the education of disabled children ages three to five.	
IDEA Part B: Section 619 A Preschool Entitlement - "ARRA Funds"	\$ 16,100
Additional funds received for this two-year grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds are recommended for early childhood programs and activities and to coordinate early intervention services.	
Adult Education	\$ 36,000
Matching state funds that help fulfill Ellington's legal obligations related to Adult Basic Education, the High School Adult Credit Diploma Program, the External Diploma Program, and GED Preparation Classes through the Vernon Regional Adult Ed. Program.	
Perkins- Career & Technology Grant	\$ 20,000
Funds are used to purchase equipment and support for career and technology programs	

Open Choice Funds	\$ 132,500
Funds are used to offset magnet school tuition payments required by Parent Choice legislation.	
Sheff Settlement – Open Choice Academic and Social Support	\$ 16,000
Funds facilitate the development of programs and activities to support the success of students in the Choice Program.	
Summer Programs	\$ 29,000
Fees paid by parents to allow their children to attend self-funded summer programs.	
Preschool Tuition Funds	\$ 62,000
Fees paid by parents of "typical peer students" attending the district's special education reverse mainstream preschool program.	
Other federal and state prepaid grants which might be applied for. "	\$ 100,000
 TOTAL	 \$1,402,600

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Cullinan
Superintendent of Schools

SCC:ned

✓ cc: Nicholas DiCorleto

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
AUDIT SERVICES FOR YEARS 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014
BID OPENING MARCH 22, 2010 @ 2:00 P.M.

CCR, Glastonbury, CT

	Audit Year 2009/10	Audit Year 2010/11	Audit Year 2011/12	Audit Year 2012/13	Audit Year 2013/14	Total
Basic Fee for Complete Audit	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	
Out of Pocket Known Expenses, if Any	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 210,000.00

Hourly Rates for Expanded Scope of Engagement

Principal Accountant or Partner	\$300-\$400	\$300-\$400	\$300-\$400	\$300-\$400	\$300-\$400	
Managers/Supervisors	\$180-\$250	\$180-\$250	\$180-\$250	\$180-\$250	\$180-\$250	
Seniors	\$140-\$180	\$140-\$180	\$140-\$180	\$140-\$180	\$140-\$180	
Staff Accountant	\$ 75-\$140	\$ 75-\$140	\$ 75-\$140	\$ 75-\$140	\$ 75-\$140	

**Henry Raymond & Thompson LLC
Hamden, CT**

	Audit Year 2009/10	Audit Year 2010/11	Audit Year 2011/12	Audit Year 2012/13	Audit Year 2013/14	
Basic Fee for Complete Audit	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	
Out of Pocket Known Expenses, if Any	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 181,500.00

Hourly Rates for Expanded Scope of Engagement

Principal Accountant or Partner	\$135	\$135	\$135	\$145	\$145	
Manager	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$110	\$110	
Staff Accountant	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 85	\$ 85	

McGladrey & Pullen, New Haven, CT

	Audit Year 2009/10	Audit Year 2010/11	Audit Year 2011/12	Audit Year 2012/13	Audit Year 2013/14	
Basic Fee for Complete Audit	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	
Out of Pocket Known Expenses, if Any	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Total	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 220,000.00

Hourly Rates for Expanded Scope of Engagement

Principal Accountant or Partner	\$200	\$210	\$220	\$225	\$230	
Manager	\$150	\$155	\$160	\$170	\$175	
Staff Accountant	\$ 90	\$ 95	\$100	\$105	\$110	

UHY Advisors, New Haven, CT

	Audit Year 2009/10	Audit Year 2010/11	Audit Year 2011/12	Audit Year 2012/13	Audit Year 2013/14	
Basic Fee for Complete Audit	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,750.00	\$ 40,600.00	\$ 41,400.00	\$ 42,250.00	
Out of Pocket Known Expenses, if Any	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,750.00	\$ 40,600.00	\$ 41,400.00	\$ 42,250.00	\$ 203,000.00

Hourly Rates for Expanded Scope of Engagement

Principal Accountant or Partner	\$195	\$195	\$200.00	\$205	\$205	
Manager	\$140	\$140	\$145.00	\$150	\$150	
Staff Accountant	\$ 95	\$ 95	\$ 98.00	\$100	\$100	

ELLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE

BUDGET DOCUMENT FISCAL YEAR 2010-11

APPROVED AT BOF MEETING-April 15, 2010

INCREASES/REDUCTIONS

Account	Sub	Account Name
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REVENUE INCREASES(REDUCTIONS)

Taxes

		Increase collection rate from 97.5% to 98.0%	163,896
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STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

0

0

Other Income

		Marshall E, Charter Fund-Town Hall Shelving	14,600
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		Sale of Property-70 and 76 South Road estimate	50,000
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TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES:

228,496

OPERATING EXPENSE (REDUCTIONS) /ADDITION

121		Auditors-new bid price	(4,500)
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170		Town Planner-Reduce overtime account	(1,000)
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850		Pinney House	(8,000)
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860		Old Crystal Lake School House	(4,500)
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910		Debt Redemption-Principal- Savings Refunding Issue	(20,000)
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920		Debt Redemption-Interest- Savings Refunding Issue	(31,852)
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920		Debt Redemption-Interest- Farm Preservation-DoJo Assoc	10,172
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910		Debt Redemption-Principal-	
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		DPW-John Deere Loader (\$178,000-5 yr lease, first payment)	39,134
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950		Insurance-Health Insurance	
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		Assistant to Senior Center Director-not full time	(23,286)
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		Additional reduction health insurance	(61,000)
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1025		AdHoc Graduation Committee	(3,000)
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1100		Capital Non-Recurring Fund	0
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		CLFD-Hydraulic Rescue Tools	21,450
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		DPW-John Deere Front End Loader Replmnt	(147,960)
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1200		Board of Education	(124,000)
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TOTAL EXPENSE REDUCTIONS

(358,342)

ELLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE					
BUDGET DOCUMENT FISCAL YEAR 2010-11					
APPROVED AT BOF MEETING-April 15, 2010					
INCREASES/REDUCTIONS					
Account	Sub	Account Name			
1100 CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND					
			2010-11	ADDS	2010-11
			BUDGET	(REDUCT)	FINANCE
Project Requests			REQUEST		RECOMMEND
Unimproved Road Improvement			25,000	0	25,000
Local Capital Improvement Program			106,105		106,105
Road Overlay			569,445	0	569,445
Townwide Sidewalks			30,000	0	30,000
Stafford Road Sewer Extension			50,000	0	50,000
DPW-John Deere Front End Loader Replmnt			147,960	(147,960)	0
DPW-Skid Steer Loader w/Accessories			46,300		46,300
Old Crystal Lake School House-Rehabilitate			95,000	0	95,000
Revaluation			150,000		150,000
EVAC-Protective Response Gear			26,000		26,000
EVAC-Chest Compression System			26,300	0	26,300
CLFD-Hydraulic Rescue Tools			0	21,450	21,450
EVFD-Hydraulic Rescue Tools			80,000	0	80,000
BOE-Replmnt Vans-Special Ed			24,000		24,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL			1,376,110	(126,510)	1,249,600
LESS-FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS					
State Grant-LOCIP			99,977		99,977
Town Sidewalk Fund			30,000		30,000
DPW Mnt Fund			46,300		46,300
Marshall E. Charter Fund			0	0	0
Ambulance Fee Program			52,300	0	52,300
TOTAL			228,577	0	228,577
NET COST TO TOWN			1,147,533	(126,510)	1,021,023
CAP NON REC FUND					

Amounts shown in dollars

BUDTAB11.XLS/BOFaddred10-11April1510/4/15/2010/2/2

April 15, 2010

A letter to the Members of the Ellington Board of Finance

I attended Tuesday's meeting of the proposed Budget for the upcoming year. I appreciate the information that was presented as it is much for informative to hear the details, as opposed to just viewing figures on a page. It is unfortunate that more residents do not attend.

Since I am not adept at public speaking (I get too nervous, and never seem to say everything that I would like to), I decided to follow up with a letter, since there were definitely some things on my mind, after hearing the handful of individuals that did speak.

I understand that several of the residents that spoke are involved in the Ellington School System, due to their children's participation in the education process and school programs. But I definitely disagree with the statement regarding an increase to the proposed Education budget.

The statistics presented clearly indicate that Ellington students are doing well. I strongly feel that throwing more money into the education budget is not what will make our students do better. I feel it is always the individual student's desire to learn and willingness to work hard, in tandem with a supportive home environment, that is what ultimately receives positive results. I would be willing to bet that if the budget in the Hartford school systems was tripled, you would not see a proportional improvement in student achievement, due to a strong percentage of those students having to deal with a less than ideal home environment.

I think it's wonderful that our town has shown that our school system is using its tax dollars wisely. We all know that we are in some very difficult economic times, and prudence is absolutely necessary. If the opinion voiced by a few should cause the Education budget to increase, you can be assured of a tough time passing the budget (though I'm sure there would be a grass roots effort to convince parents with school age children, that they must vote for higher taxes or be considered a traitor to their child's education) with multiple referendums that cost the town more money.

The other comment in regard to supporting more sports due to childhood obesity, I feel is manipulative. Yes, obesity is a problem in America, but I disagree that our school systems somehow need to bear the brunt of responsibility for this. If parents assure that their children are eating healthy meals at home, pack nutritional lunches for them, keep them away from the television after school, and set a good example themselves of an active, fit

lifestyle, then I think we would be well on our way to solving the problem. Parents need to take more responsibility for this, and stop putting that burden on our school systems.

Many years ago, when my two boys were in school, I remember having to pay \$25 for each one of them to participate in a school sport (not a small amount, considering that was 15 years ago!). I was a single mom at the time with a modest income, but I did what I had to, to come up with that money in order for them to play. My next door neighbor was retired, and in no way did I have some kind of expectation, that he (on his fixed income) should have to pay higher taxes so that my two boys could play a sport. In that spirit, Mr. Frederick brought up the point of having more independent fund raising from the parents and students who would stand to gain from these activities, instead of trying to pass it along to other residents (referring to the Graduation Party that was on the budget). Hear, hear!

And lastly, I disagree on the lack of interest in the Pinney House (sorry for this Mr. Frederick ☺). I think our historic Main Street is a jewel, and the Pinney house a treasure worthy of saving. To repeat a phrase, "If you build it, they will come". I can't imagine that once it is restored, it could not be used for some town office or function. It's part of our town history, and to just plow it under, so that we can see the miles of townhouses, McMansions and apartments that seem to be our future, is really sad.

I admit that being a long time resident of Ellington (over 30 years), I have mourned the loss of our rural town as developments sprung up over our farm lands. This has brought many, many young families to our town, who in turn, are placing expectations on the residents as to the kind of school experience they want their children to have. As to the comment, that 'better schools mean higher home values', well, yes. But guess what? Higher home values translate into higher property taxes, so please feel free to lower my home value anytime!

I wish I had the presence to have been able to get up and address the residents of our town at the meeting Tuesday evening, but I hope that my opinion is shared with the Board (for what it's worth). Maybe I'll bring this along and just read it at our next meeting (maybe?).

I appreciate your efforts on behalf of the taxpayers and residents of Ellington.

Sincerely,

Helen Krieger
16 Glenwood Road

Marie B. Sauve

From: WeiningWu@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 11:56 AM
To: info
Subject: To Ellington Finance Board Members and 1st Selectman

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Weining Wu and I live on 4 Teaberry Ridge. I attended last night's budget hearing and would like to make a few comments based on what I have seen so far.

First, I would like to say that as a town resident, I very much appreciates the Finance Board working so hard to put forward a lean budget estimate in this difficult economic time. I am very concerned with several comments made to the board last night on behalf of BOE regarding spending and scholastic excellence.

I strongly feel that ranking at bottom 5 of the per pupil spending fully demonstrates Ellington's efficiency with its money rather than signify a lack of funding. The results of this efficiency can be seen in the test score rankings. Just because the car has better gas mileage does not mean it needs a bigger gas tank. People uses "Education" to advance their owe agenda way too often knowing not many sane politicians are willing to risk standing in their way.

As a resident, I am okay with a 0.8mil increase to reward Ellington's teachers but feel that if the teachers are taking a hard zero this year, then the BOE should also live with a zero. Funding school activities does not prevent child obesity, parent intervention does. School activities does not help students go to college, good teachers does. Without good parents doing their part, no amount of money will help these students as you can clearly see in Hartford and Bloomfield school systems. They spend almost twice as much as we do and they are still at the bottom of the list. I believe that if we are going to increase tax in this difficult time, lets spend it smartly.

Sincerely,

Weining Wu
4 Teaberry Ridge
Ellington, CT